

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 102608
ORIGIN EB-07

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EA/K:PMAYHEW
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STR:DWHITNACK
-----061914Z 050214 /55
R 052022Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY REGARDING POSSIBILITY OF
SHIFT IN COMPOSITION OF FOOTWEAR IMPORTS

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A LETTER RECEIVED BY THE
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR TRADE NEGOTIATIONS FROM
SENATOR HERMAN E. TALMADGE OF GEORGIA REGARDING THE CON-
CERN OF THE GEORGIA RUBBER FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY THAT A
LIMITATION ON NONRUBBER FOOTWEAR IMPORTS WOULD RESULT IN
RAPID INCREASES IN RUBBER FOOTWEAR IMPORTS. RUBBER
FOOTWEAR PRODUCERS IN OTHER STATES HAVE EXPRESSED SIMILAR
CONCERN (BEGIN TEXT):

I WISH YOU SUCCESS IN THE NONRUBBER FOOTWEAR ORDERLY
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PAGE 02 STATE 102608

MARKETING AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH TAIWAN, KOREA, AND
OTHER COUNTRIES.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GEORGIA RUBBER FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY
HAVE EXPRESSED TO ME THEIR CONCERN THAT A LIMITATION
ON NONRUBBER FOOTWEAR IMPORTS WOULD RESULT IN RAPID
INCREASES IN RUBBER FOOTWEAR IMPORTS. THIS CHANGE IN

THE NATURE OF FOOTWEAR IMPORTS WOULD RESULT, I AM TOLD,
BECAUSE THE FOOTWEAR FACTORIES IN KOREA AND TAIWAN PRODUCE

BOTH NONRUBBER AND RUBBER FOOTWEAR AND CAN QUICKLY CHANGE
FROM NONRUBBER TO RUBBER FOOTWEAR PRODUCTION.

AS YOU MAY KNOW, IMPORTS NOW ACCOUNT FOR MORE THAN 50
PERCENT OF DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION OF RUBBER-SOLED FOOTWEAR
WITH FABRIC UPPERS AND MORE THAN 40 PERCENT OF DOMESTIC
CONSUMPTION OF WATERPROOF FOOTWEAR. NINETY PERCENT OF
RUBBER FOOTWEAR IMPORTS ARE FROM TAIWAN AND KOREA.

I REQUEST THAT YOU EXAMINE THE EFFECT OF INTERCHANGEABLE
RUBBER AND NONRUBBER FOOTWEAR PRODUCTION CAPACITY ON
FOOTWEAR EXPORTS FROM TAIWAN AND KOREA. I ALSO REQUEST
THAT YOU EXAMINE THE EFFECT OF NONRUBBER FOOTWEAR OMA'S
ON RUBBER FOOTWEAR IMPORTS.

I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR INFORMING ME OF THE RESULTS OF
THESE EXAMINATIONS TOGETHER WITH YOUR OPINION AS TO
WHAT STEPS, IF ANY, MAY BE NECESSARY TO MINIMIZE THE
INCREASE IN RUBBER FOOTWEAR IMPORTS RESULTING FROM NON-
RUBBER FOOTWEAR OMA'S.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION ON THIS IMPORTANT MATTER.
END TEXT.

2. TO ASSIST IN RESPONDING TO THE COMMUNICATION FROM
SENATOR TALMADGE WE WOULD APPRECIATE MISSION'S EXAMINING
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PAGE 03 STATE 102608

THE INTERCHANGEABILITY OF PRODUCTION FACILITIES IN THE
HOST COUNTRY FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY AND PROVIDING US WITH ITS
BEST JUDGMENT AS TO THE LIKELIHOOD THAT ANY CUTBACK
IN SHIPMENTS OF NONRUBBER FOOTWEAR WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED
BY AN INCREASE IN SHIPMENTS OF RUBBER FOOTWEAR. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Film Number: D770160-0185
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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